

Sounding Off

Duxbury Free Library Holding

Editor, Duxbury Clipper:

From the number of calls I have received concerning Article 30 and the Finance Committee's negative recommendation on this Article, it is evident that a fuller explanation of the recommendation by the Library Study Committee to the townspeople of Duxbury is called for.

Reading over our report to the Town, it is evident that the Study Committee failed adequately to demonstrate the seriousness of a financial commitment on the part of the Town at THIS time. This commitment is necessary to make stronger our case for Federal funds for Duxbury next year. Let me explain why.

This year's Library Federal Funds Program was \$800,000 for Massachusetts. There were 27 applicants including one town whose application was later returned because it was submitted too late. Fourteen applications were approved. Some of these applications were granted because of political and economic reasons. The State Commission which makes the decisions on which towns shall get this Federal aid had to make certain that all sections of the state shared in this grant. One town received aid because its library was currently operating out of rented quarters; another received a grant because it was in an officially designated depressed area.



NOTICE

First photo shows plenty of room at the new Kingston Library



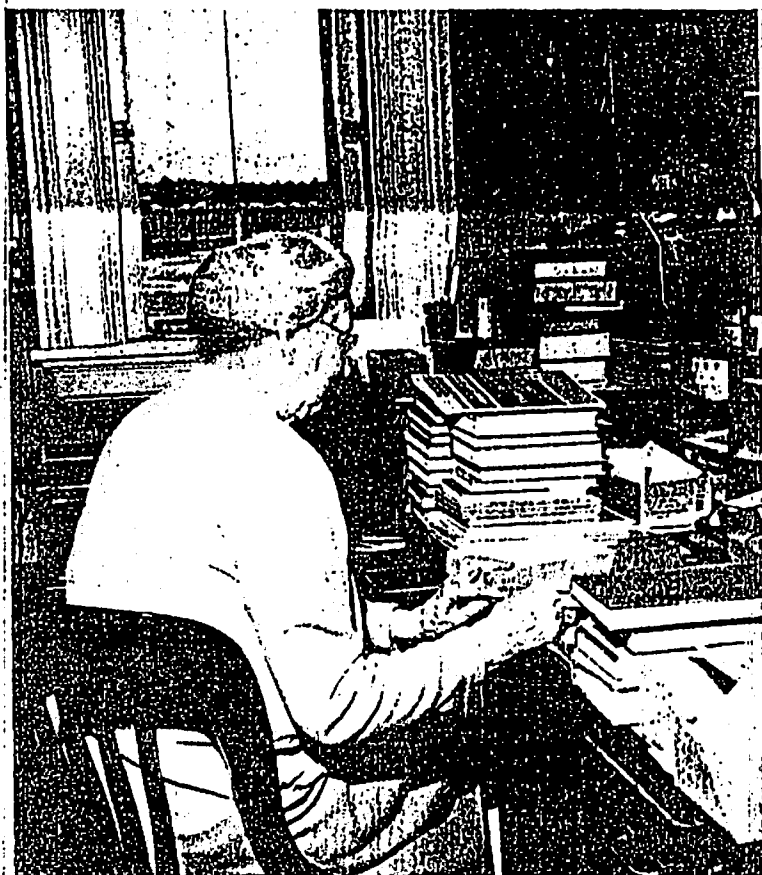
Second photo shows lack of room at the Duxbury Free Library

But the majority of the grants were awarded to towns which demonstrated that they wanted new libraries or library additions and could show tangible evidence to this effect. This included towns which had their site problems settled and even had voted the WHOLE town's share of the proposed expenditure. Your Committee feels that if the Town votes to transfer the small amount of land necessary to complete the library site and the funds to complete working drawings, our case for Federal funds (\$50,000 of your tax money you have paid to the Federal Government) will be that much stronger. Remember, that with twice as many applications as they have funds to grant, the State Commission has to look for reasons to turn down applications. Let's not give them any excuse to turn down Duxbury's application next August!

I regret very much the inference by the Finance Committee that these plans would be materially changed. This Library Study Committee visited many surrounding libraries and selected an architectural firm that has built libraries and is building several right now. Furthermore, the Committee has the guidance of Hammett has the guidance of Harold Bush-Brown, an eminent library architect in his own right. The library plans submitted by your Committee are in accordance with State and Federal requirements and meet the standards of the American Library Association for a town the size of Duxbury. These plans have been approved by the State Library Extension Commission. Let us make up our minds as to whether we want the library facilities, then let us show those entrusted with disbursing Federal funds that we really want better library accommodations by putting up some of our own money first!

Francis Paul III

Member, Library Study Committee



TWO VIEWS OF THE LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE Here the Duxbury Librarian orders books, receives books, catalogues books; pays for books, indexes books, eats her lunch; in short, all of her working day is spent in this small room readying the books for the reading public.



Photos by Steve Hansen